

CGYG-LIFE Marriage-Family Life group
Session 5: (September 17, 2011)
Discipline, part 1

Recap of previous sessions:

-The goal of parenting: Godliness - "Has not the Lord made them one?... And why one? **Because He was seeking godly offspring...**" (Malachi 2:15)

- all other goals/ambitions we may have for our children need to be subservient to this one
- requires intentional effort in our own lives, and in the ordering of our family life

-Instruction/education of children

- primary responsibility for educating children lies with the parents, **not** with the state, school or church
- most instruction in Scripture regarding teaching children deals with issues of character/training in godliness

-**"informal"** instruction – not necessarily structured or planned, but takes place by example, and as opportunities arise in the ebb & flow of life; includes teaching basic life skills (e.g. Deut. 6:7)

-**"formal"** instruction – structured/planned times of teaching

- within the home:** Scripture memorization; family devotions & other times of teaching (e.g. table talk); "home schooling"
- outside the home:** church; school (public vs. private vs. Christian vs. homeschooling); other settings (music lessons, sports, camps, etc.)

Discipline

-What is discipline?

-see attached verses from Proverbs for occurrences of 'discipline'

-Webster's dictionary: systematic training or subjection to authority; especially training of mental, moral, and physical powers by exercise; the result of such training; punishment for the sake of training; correction

-in the context of raising children, refers to training children to live rightly - to think, speak, and act rightly; to live lives characterized by godliness and wisdom

-in Proverbs, closely tied with instruction (word translated 'discipline' often also translated as 'instruction'), and with wisdom/obtaining wisdom

-involves teaching/instruction, correction (e.g. Prov. 5:12, 6:23, 10:17, 12:1, etc.), rebuke/reproof (e.g. Prov. 3:11-12), punishment (e.g. Prov. 15:10, 23:13-14, 13:24)

-"Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord." (Eph. 6:4)

"Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it." (Prov. 22:6)

-Why discipline?

-**love for our children** - Proverbs 3:11-12, 13:24

-**because of the benefits that a disciplined life brings** - Proverbs 1:1-3, 6:23, 10:17, 13:18, 15:32, 23:13-14, 23:22-24, 29:18

-**because an undisciplined life is the way of a fool** - Proverbs 1:7, 5:22-23, 12:1, 15:5, 22:15

-**because an undisciplined life is a path to ruin, death and destruction** - Proverbs 5:11-14, 5:22-23, 13:18, 15:10, 15:32, 19:18

-**because an undisciplined life harms others** - Proverbs 10:17

-How to discipline? A brief overview

-in accordance to what Scripture teaches: "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for *teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training* in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." (2 Tim. 3:16-17)

-the book of Proverbs - lots of practical wisdom, with vivid pictures of what to aim for, what to avoid

-discipline involves "positive" aspects and "negative" aspects, i.e. encouraging the good, discouraging the bad

- "positive" aspects can involve

- teaching/instruction - about what is good/right/proper - formal and informal (see previous sessions)

- "training" - requires lots of time & patience!

- ordering life to help set disciplined habits/patterns of life e.g. implementing rules, boundaries

- rehearsing/practicing/reinforcing - patterns of thought/speech/behavior - lots of repetition

- example - modeling a godly life to your kids

- encouragement - incentives for thinking/speaking/acting rightly

- "negative" aspects involve

- rebuking/reproof & correcting error, mistakes, foolishness

- punishing - when necessary, in accordance with the wrong (including, but not limited to spanking)

- discipline that focuses exclusively on negative aspects will probably exasperate/embitter kids over time

-Training: ordering family life

- requires intentional effort (as discussed in previous sessions)

- intentional ordering of the home and daily activities to facilitate opportunities for both parents and children to learn about the Lord and to encourage obedience to His Word (Deut. 6:5-9)

- assess priorities and how these mesh with activities you and your family are engaging in

- the structure/daily activities of your family life (and your personal walk as parents) provide the context for other aspects of discipline --> don't send conflicting messages

- build structure & order into life

- a degree of regularity to help kids know what to expect and what is expected of them - e.g. meal times, bed times, times for work, play, quiet, etc.

- daily routines - are helpful, but remember that routines are a means to an end (i.e. godliness), not the end! (i.e. they are a tool, not the goal/purpose)

- set boundaries

- "household rules":

- everyone in the family should know and understand what is expected of them and what is acceptable or unacceptable behavior, both inside and outside the home - with consistent application and enforcement

- not just the rules, but the principles underlying them --> need to address the heart, not just external appearances/behavior

For example,

- Honoring & obeying God - daily quiet times required; obedience to His commands expected

- Honoring & obeying parents - treat parents (& other authorities) with appropriate respect, obedience expected

- Treating one another with respect - codes of conduct - e.g. wholesome speech/words, no fighting, etc.

- Responsibility before privilege - age appropriate responsibilities --> e.g. housework/chores, finishing work before play

- again, rules/codes of conduct are not the end, but a means to an end; but a necessary part of family life - "law" before "grace", as in God's dealings with His children

- choices - give limited choices/freedom when young and widen the boundaries as kids grow

- don't give choices you are not willing to fulfill (e.g. What do you want to do today? vs. Do you want to go to the zoo or go to the park today?)

--> say 'yes' as much as you can, but within the boundaries you set (and the kids recognize)

References (NIV 1984; [ESV])

Proverbs 1:1-3

The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel: for attaining *wisdom and discipline [instruction]*; for understanding words of insight; for acquiring a *disciplined* and prudent life, doing what is right and just and fair;

Proverbs 1:7

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise *wisdom and discipline [instruction]*.

Proverbs 3:11-12

My son, *do not despise the LORD's discipline and do not resent his rebuke*, because the LORD *disciplines [reproves]* those he loves, as a father the son he delights in.

Proverbs 5:11-14

At the end of your life you will groan, when your flesh and body are spent. You will say, "*How I hated discipline! How my heart spurned correction!* I would not obey my teachers or listen to my instructors. I have come to the brink of utter ruin in the midst of the whole assembly."

Proverbs 5:22-23

The evil deeds of a wicked man ensnare him; the cords of his sin hold him fast. He will die for lack of *discipline*, led astray by his own great folly.

Proverbs 6:23

For these commands are a lamp, teaching is a light, and *the corrections of discipline are the way to life*,

Proverbs 10:17

He who heeds *discipline [instruction]* shows the way to life, but whoever ignores *correction* leads others astray.

Proverbs 12:1

Whoever loves *discipline* loves knowledge, but he who hates *correction* is stupid.

Proverbs 13:18

He who ignores *discipline [instruction]* comes to poverty and shame, but whoever heeds *correction* is honored.

Proverbs 13:24

He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is careful to *discipline* him.

Proverbs 15:5

A fool spurns his father's *discipline [instruction]*, but whoever heeds *correction* shows prudence.

Proverbs 15:10

Stern *discipline* awaits him who leaves the path; he who hates *correction* will die.

Proverbs 15:32

He who ignores *discipline [instruction]* despises himself, but whoever heeds *correction* gains understanding.

Proverbs 19:18*

Discipline your son, for in that there is hope; do not be a willing party to his death.

Proverbs 22:15

Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of *discipline* will drive it far from him.

Proverbs 23:13-14

Do not withhold *discipline* from a child; if you *punish* him with the rod, he will not die. *Punish* him with the rod and save his soul from death.

Proverbs 23:22-24

Listen to your father, who gave you life, and do not despise your mother when she is old. Buy the truth and do not sell it; *get wisdom, discipline [instruction] and understanding*. The father of a righteous man has great joy; he who has a wise son delights in him.

Proverbs 29:17*

Discipline your son, and he will give you peace; he will bring delight to your soul.

*Hebrew word translated discipline in Proverbs 19:18 & 29:17 (3579) differs from the one in the other passages (4592)

3579: to correct, discipline; also: punish, scourge, chasten

4592: discipline, instruction, correction, wisdom and teaching that imply correcting errant behavior; other translations include warning, rebuke, punishment